

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SEPTEMBER 2004 AGENDA

SUBJECT

Environmental Effect of Proposed Formation of Wiseburn Unified School District from Wiseburn Elementary School District and a Portion of Centinela Valley Union High School District in Los Angeles County

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Public □	Hearing
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RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Negative Declaration (Attachment 1), which indicates no environmental effect.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The State Board of Education (SBE) has not heard this issue previously. The issue was on the May 2004 agenda but was removed at the request of Wiseburn Elementary School District (ESD). It was again on the July 2004 agenda but was removed at the request of Centinela Valley UHSD, with concurrence by Wiseburn ESD. The attachments in this item are identical to the attachments contained in the July 2004 agenda item.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Six years ago, the California Resources Agency adopted new guidelines that exempted school district organizations from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. Those guidelines were invalidated in a recent appellate court ruling (Communities for a Better Environment v. California Resources Agency, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, Case No. C038844) and the original guidelines, which included school district organizations as projects under CEQA, were reinstated.

The SBE is the lead agency for all aspects of school district unifications, including the reinstated CEQA review process. Pursuant to past practice, California Department of Education (CDE) staff conducted an initial study (Attachment 2) and determined that there would be no significant adverse effect on the environment as a result of forming the Wiseburn Unified School District. A copy of the Negative Declaration and initial study was been filed with the State Clearinghouse for state agency review. Also, a legal notice of the public hearing has been published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Any comments received by CDE will be forwarded to the SBE or presented verbally at the public hearing.

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

There is no fiscal effect to adopting the Proposed Negative Declaration.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1: Proposed Negative Declaration (1 Page)

Attachment 2: Environmental Checklist Form (8 Pages)

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

- Name, if any, and a brief description of project: <u>Formation of Wiseburn Unified School</u>
 <u>District</u>, which is a unification of the existing Wiseburn Elementary School District and corresponding geographical portion of Centinela Valley Union High School District.
- 2. Location: Los Angeles County
- 3. Entity or person undertaking project: California State Board of Education

The California State Board of Education, having reviewed the Initial Study of this proposed project, and having reviewed the written comments received prior to the public meeting of the State Board of Education, including the recommendation of the California Department of Education's staff, does hereby find and declare that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A brief statement of the reasons supporting the State Board of Education findings is as follows: The unification itself will not involve or cause physical changes to the existing environment. Merely changing the political boundaries governance structure, and/or the name of a school district will not have an environmental impact.

The California State Board of Education hereby finds that the Negative Declaration reflects its independent judgment.

A copy of the Initial Study may be obtained at the California Department of Education, 1430 N Street, Suite 3800, Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone: (916) 322-1468.

The location and custodian of the documents and any other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the California State Board of Education based its decision to adopt this Negative Declaration are as follows:

California Department of Education 1430 N Street, Suite 3800 Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (916) 322-1468

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

Project title: Formation of Wiseburn Unified School District
2. Lead agency name and address:
California State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 5111, Sacramento, CA 95814
3. Contact person and phone number: Larry Shirey, 916 322-1468
4. Project location:
Wiseburn School District, serving Cities of El Segundo and Hawthorne, parts of unincorporated Los Angeles County
5. Project sponsor's name and address:
Tony Nakamura, Chief Petitioner, 5524 W. 124 th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250; John Peterson, Chie Petitioner, 5315 W. 124 th Pl., Del Aire, CA 90250; Lydia Rodriquez, Chief Petitioner, 5164 W. 131 st St., Hawthorne, CA 90250
6. General plan designation: N/A 7. Zoning: N/A
8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
Change of local governmental structure from elementary/high school districts to unified district
9. Surrounding land uses and setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings)
Cities of El Segundo, Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Torrance, and unincorporated Los Angeles County; five current school districts – Centinela Valley Union High School District, Hawthorne Elementary School District, Lawndale Elementary School District, Lennox Elementary School District, Wiseburn Elementary School District
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreements.)
None

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked at least one impact that is a "Pote following pages.			
☐ Land Use and Planning	☐ Transportation	on/Circulation	☐ Public services
☐ Population and Housing	☐ Biological Re	esources	Utilities and Service
☐ Geological Problems	☐ Energy and I	Vineral	☐ Aesthetics
☐ Water	Hazards		☐ Cultural Resources
☐ Air Quality	Noise		Recreation
	☐ Mandatory F	indings of	
DETERMINATION: (To be completed	by the Lead Agency)		
On the basis of this initial evaluati	ion:		
I find that the proposed project a NEGATIVE DECLA-RATION		<u> </u>	fect on the environment, and
☐ I find that although the proposithere will not be a significant ean attached sheet have been a prepared.	ffect in this case	because the mitiga	ation measures described or
☐ I find that the proposed project ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT F	•		ne environment, and an
☐ I find that the proposed project least one effect 1) has been as applicable legal standards, and earlier analysis as described compact or "potentially significatis required, but it must analyze	dequately analyzed 2) has been add on attached sheet ant unless mitigate	ed in an earlier doo dressed by mitigat s, if the effect is a ed." An ENVIRON	cument pursuant to ion measures based on the "potentially significant MENTAL IMPACT REPORT
☐ I find that although the proposithere WILL NOT be a signification (a) have been analyzed adequate have been avoided or mitigate measures that are imposed up	ant effect in this ca pately in an earlied ad pursuant to tha	ase because all po r EIR pursuant to a t earlier EIR, inclu	tentially significant effects applicable standards, and (b)
Signature		Date: 10/1/03	
Printed name: Larry Shirey		For: California S	State Board of Education

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 1 5063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XVII at the end of the checklist.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. See the sample question below. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different ones.

Sample Question:

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant	Significant Un Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	
Would the proposal result in potential impacts involving:	Impact	orporated	Impact	No Impaci
a) Landslides or mudslides? (1, 6)				\boxtimes
(Attached source list explains that 1 is the general plan, and 6 is would probably not need further explanation.)	a USGS	S topo map	o. This a	nswer

ΕN	VIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation	Less than Significant	
I. L	AND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal:	Imnac t	Incorporated	Impact	No Impac
a)	Conflict with general plan designation or zoning?				\boxtimes
b)	Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project?	ed 🗆			\boxtimes
c)	Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity?				\boxtimes
d)	Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g., impacts to so or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)?	ils			\boxtimes
e)	Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)?				\boxtimes
II.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proposal:				
a)	Cumulatively exceed regional or local population projections?				\boxtimes
b)	Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectl (e.g., projects in an undeveloped area of major infrastructure)	•			\boxtimes
c)	Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?				\boxtimes
III.	GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or exp to potential impacts involving:	ose ped	pple		
a)	Fault rupture?				\boxtimes
b)	Seismic ground shaking?				\boxtimes
c)	Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction?				\boxtimes
d)	Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard?				\boxtimes
e)	Landslides or mudflows?				\boxtimes
f)	Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill?				\boxtimes
g)	Subsidence of land? □			\boxtimes	
h)	Expansive soils?				\boxtimes
i)	Unique geologic or physical features?				
IV.	WATER. Would the proposal result in:				
a)	Changes in absorption rates, drainage or surface runoff?				\boxtimes
b)	Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?				\boxtimes
c)	Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface wa	ater qua	lity		

	(e.g., temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			\boxtimes
d)	Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body?			\boxtimes
e)	Changes in currents or course/direction of water movements?			
f)	Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct a withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excor through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability?			\boxtimes
g)	Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater?			
h)	Impacts to groundwater quality?			\boxtimes
i)	Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise a for public water supplies?	vailable □		\boxtimes
٧.	AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal:			
a)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or prair qualify violation?	ojected		\boxtimes
b)	Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants?			\boxtimes
c)	Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any chain climate?	inge		\boxtimes
d)	Create objectionable odors?			\boxtimes
VI.	TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION. Would the proposal resu	lt in:		
a)	Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion?			\boxtimes
b)	Hazards to safety from design features (e.g., sharp curves or dintersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	angerou	s 🗆	\boxtimes
c)	Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses?			\boxtimes
d)	Insufficient parking capacity onsite or offsite?			
e)	Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists?			
f)	Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transports (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	ation		\boxtimes
g) VII	Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts? BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in imp	□ acts to:		
a)	Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (include not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds?	ling but □		\boxtimes
b)	Locally designated species (e.g., heritage trees)?			\boxtimes
c)	Locally designated natural communities (e.g., oak forest, coasta habitat, etc.)?	al		\boxtimes
d)	Wetland habitat (e.g., marsh, riparian, and vernal pool)?			
e)	Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors?			\boxtimes

VII	I. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal.	-			
a)	Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?				
b)	Use nonrenewable resources in a wasteful/inefficient manner?				\boxtimes
c)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?	nt would □			\boxtimes
IX.	HAZARDS. Would the proposal involve:				
a)	A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substance but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation)?	es (inclu □	ding, □		\boxtimes
b)	Possible interference with an emergency response plan or eme evacuation plan?	rgency			
c)	The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard?				\boxtimes
d)	Exposure of people to existing potential health hazards?			\boxtimes	
e)	Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush or trees?				\boxtimes
Χ.	NOISE. Would the proposal result in:				
a)	Increases in existing noise levels?				
b)	Exposure of people to severe noise levels?				\boxtimes
XI.	PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon, a need for new or altered government services in any of the followed				
a)	Fire protection?				\boxtimes
b)	Police protection?				
c)	Schools?				
d)	Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?				\boxtimes
e)	Other government services?				\boxtimes
XII	. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the proposal res				
a)	Power or natural gas?				\boxtimes
b)	Communications systems?				
c)	Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities? (*)				
d)	Sewer or septic tanks?□			\boxtimes	
e)	Storm water drainage?□			\boxtimes	
f)	Solid waste disposal?				\boxtimes

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g)	Local or regional water supplies?						
XII	XIII. AESTHETICS. Would the proposal:						
a)	Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway?				\boxtimes		
b)	Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect?						
c)	Create light or glare?						
XI۱	/. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:						
a)	Disturb paleontological resources?				\boxtimes		
b)	Disturb archaeological resources?				\boxtimes		
c)	Have the potential to cause a physical change which would aff unique ethnic cultural values?	ect			\boxtimes		
d)	Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?				\boxtimes		
ΧV	. RECREATION. Would the proposal:						
a)	Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or oth recreational facilities?	ner			\boxtimes		
b)	Affect existing recreational opportunities?						
χV	I. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.						
a)	a) Does the project have potential to degrade quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare/endangered plant/animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?						
b)	Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the environmental goals?	e disadv	antage o	f long-ter	_		
c)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effect when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the projects, and the effects of probable future projects)	ts of a pi	roject are	conside			
d)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause human beings, either directly or indirectly?	substanti	al advers □	se effects	s on ⊠		

XVII. EARLIER ANALYSES.

Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case a discussion should identify the following on attached sheets:

- a) Earlier analyses used. Identify earlier analyses and state where they are available for review.
- b) **Impacts adequately addressed.** Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
- c) Mitigation measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which are incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- * Project is a governance change for a local education agency and will have no negative environmental effect

Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087.

Reference: Public Resources Code Sections21080(c), 21080.1, 21083, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21151; *Sundstrum* v. *County of Mendocino*, 202 Cal.App.3d 296 (1988); *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors*, 222 Cal.App.3d 1337 (1990).